

The Babysitter Effect by terratabula

Category: Stranger Things (TV 2016)

Genre: 1980s, F/M, Multi, PoC, babysitter, stranger things

Language: English

Characters: Barbara "Barb" Holland, Billy Hargrove, Dustin Henderson, Eleven | Jane Hopper, Erica Sinclair, Holly Wheeler, Jim "Chief" Hopper, Jonathan Byers, Joyce Byers, Karen Wheeler, Lucas Sinclair, Maxine "Max" Mayfield, Mike Wheeler, Nancy Wheeler, Original Characters, Robin Buckley, Steve Harrington, Ted Wheeler, Will Byers

Relationships: Jonathan Byers/Nancy Wheeler, Steve Harrington/Nancy Wheeler, Steve Harrington/Original Female Character(s)

Status: In-Progress

Published: 2021-06-04

Updated: 2021-06-04

Packaged: 2022-03-31 15:01:27

Rating: Teen And Up Audiences

Warnings: Graphic Depictions Of Violence

Chapters: 8

Words: 12,584

Publisher: archiveofourown.org

Summary:

"you're still babysitting that Dennis kid?"

"His name is Dustin, Harrington."

Meet Louise, Dustin's babysitter and Steve's best friend and Jonathan photography buddy and one of the few people that puts up with Steve Harrington's bullshit.

1. [I swear to god if I die!]

Louise sat on the big fat cushy recliner in the Henderson's house. She watched reruns of "I love Lucy." And occasionally chuckling. She heard the door open.

"Mom, I'm home."

"It's Louise actually!" She called out. "Your moms working late again."

"Oh you again." Dustin frowned.

"Yeah, you got a problem with that?" Louise crossed her arms.

"It's just that I'm in middle school." Dustin explained. "I don't need a babysitter."

The short girl nodded. "That I can agree with."

Dustin's face lit up.

"However, it's late, and your mom doesn't want you to be home alone."

Dustin's face dropped.

"Anyways there's dinner in the microwave for you." Louise pointed back. "It's your favorite."

"You brought leftover hot pot!?" Dustin in the kitchen.

"Yep." Louise smiled. You see Louise had been babysitting Dustin Henderson since she was in middle school. His mom was a single mom and was constantly out working late, or treating herself. Louise didn't mind, she viewed Dustin as her little brother and didn't mind taking care of him.

"So about your "best friend"" Dustin sarcastically said.

"Yeah, what about him?" The girl turned away from the tv.

"Did you know he's dating Nancy Wheeler?"

"Did you know that the earth orbits the moon?" Louise stated. "Of course I did! I set them up."

"It's just that Nancy is not cool with us anymore because of Steve." Dustin took a big bite out of his meal. "Like your best friend Steve and you're still cool." He sputtered with his mouth full.

"It's just apart of growing up." Louise said. "Everybody reacts differently when they get into certain types of relationships."

"But I thought you like Steve Harrington?" The blue eyed boy points out.

"I thought so too." Louise turned back to the television.

Louise arrived at school. The autumn air filled the school yard. She opened her locker. "Hey Louise." Steve leaned against the locker beside hers.

"What's up?"

"Well I was just wondering if you can stand watch for me and Nancy?"

"It's Nancy and I." Louise corrected. "And of course." She closed her locker. "So were you affected by the power outage?" They both began walking towards the bathroom.

"No." Steve shook his head.

"Huh strange." Louise wondered out loud. "Hey~ remember the plans we made tonight? Well I have to babysit tonight." She shrugs.

Louise looked at Steve. Steve made a face. "Y-Yes..." he trailed off awkwardly.

"You forgot." The short girl deadpanned. "And let me guess- you made

plans with Nancy?"

Steve shook his head. "My dad wants us to have 'family dinner.' But hey you're babysitting that kid Dennis." Steve smiled.

"His name is Dustin. And your dad is such an asshole." They both finally reached the bathroom door. "I don't know why I keep doing favors for you." She stared at the school bathroom in disgust.

"It's because you love me." Steve Harrington grinned.

"In your dreams lover boy." Louise rolled her eyes and pulled out her flashcards to pass time.

"Keep an eye out for me." And with that Steve went inside the bathroom.

"Ok." Louise smiled. "Bleach is an example of a exothermic reaction..." She mumbled to herself.

"Hey, is Steve in there?" Nancy asked.

"Yes." Louise said shortly. Not looking up from her studying.

"Thank you but you can go now." Nancy asked. She tightened her bag close to her. It was obvious that she was intimidated by Louise Wong. Her jet black hair and her seemingly sharp eyes pierced through anyone who made any eye contact with her. But in actuality she was a big fat nerd who took no bullshit from anyone. But people have trouble

conceptualizing the concept, especially Nancy Wheeler.

She put down her flashcards. "No." The small girl said. Nancy tilted her head. "I'm doing this for my best friend. I'm keeping watch and making sure other people respect your guy's privacy and you feel safe in your space and nothing happens to the both of you." She place her hand on her hip. "And that's what we call the Babysitter effect, Nancy." Louise leaned back against the wall. "You go in the bathroom and have seven minutes in heaven and I stand back here and keep

watch so no on interrupts."

"Oh ok." Nancy agreed. "T-thank you." She ducked her head and went into the bathroom. Louise went back to studying her flashcards. "Now... What's an example of an endothermic reaction?"

School was out and Louise found herself babysitting Dustin. Dustin bursts into the house and slams the door. He runs to his room and comes out with a raincoat.

Louise sat up. "Hey!"

"Oh hey Louise~" Dustin stooped. "Wasn't expecting you."

"Well you obviously didn't see my bike out there." She rolled eyes jokingly.

"You brought the cruiser bruiser?"

"Don't call my bike that!" The short girl exclaimed. Obviously feeling insulted about her baby.

"Your bike is really hard to ride." The blue eyed boy defended himself. Rubbing his elbow from the transitive memory.

"It's because you're short Dustin." Louise fired.

"You're also short Louise." Dustin shot back. "I thought I was going to be home alone tonight?"

"Yeah, I know your mom promised you, you'd be home alone tonight, but after what happened to Will- she wanted to take some precautions so nothing happens to her little Dusty." Louise narrowed her eyes on Dustin. "Where are you going?"

"To Will's! No! To Mike's house..." Louise raises her eyebrows. Dustin sighed. "To look for Will."

"Oh."

"Please don't tell my mom." Dustin begged. He got on his knees dramatically.

"Oh I won't tell your mom-" Louise grinned unless you let me come with you?" She bargained. She wanted to look for Will but her mom and dad said no. She babysat for the Byers when both Jonathan and Joyce were working and she would watch Will and draw with him. Or since he's closer to Dustin than Lucas and Mike are. They would have sleepovers and spend a little more extra time hanging out after a day at Mike's.

"Deal."

"You seriously let her join us?!" Lucas shouted over the torrential rain.

"Yeah. She's pretty cool, you know." Dustin shouted back.

"Well what do you think Mike?" Lucas turned to the pale boy.

"She is pretty cool." Mike shrugged his shoulders.

"You're only saying that because you have a crush on her."

"No I don't!"

"Yes you do." Dustin joined in. He waved his hand around imitating Mike, "Oh is Louise babysitting you tonight? Oh she is!? Let's play D&D at your house Dustin!" Lucas laughed in agreement.

"Ok whatever, we have more serious matters on hand." Mike said.

The rain tattered down the pavement nearby as they rode their bikes through the now marshy, wet grass. Louise's long hair was sticking to her arms as she rode against the rain.

"Will!"

"Will!"

"Will!"

"Will!"

"Will" they've been calling out for Will for hours.

"Ugh my bike keeps getting stuck." Lucas once again pulled his bike out of the mud.

"Mine too." Dustin agreed.

"I think we should leave our bikes right here. We are not far off the road." Louise suggested.

"Yeah I agree. We should search around on foot for a bit." Mike said.

They piled their bikes and grabbed their flashlights, once again starting their journey to look for their missing friend.

"Will!" Mike shouted. The flashlight flashing back and forth in front of them. The thunder rumbled above them.

"Byers!" Lucas called. He occasionally wiped his wet face out of nervousness.

"Will!" Louise called out.

"Will!" Dustin called out. "I got your X-men 134!" As an attempt to lure him out of hiding. It was more so wishful thinking on Dustin's part that Will was only hiding.

The four entered a small clearing in the woods.

"I think we should head back." Dustin suggested.

"Guys I really think we should turn back." Dustin reiterated.

Lucas looks at Dustin, "seriously Dustin?" He chastised. "You wanna be a baby, then go home already." The tension was high. Mike and Louise ignored the two bickering pair and moved on forward.

"I'm being realistic Lucas!" Dustin yelled back.

"No you're a big sissy." Lucas stated.

"Do you think he went missing because he ran into something bad?" Dustin asked out loud.

"I mean it's a possibility." Louise responded.

"And we're going to the exact spot he went missing." Anxiety tinted Dustin's voice. "And we have no weapons or anything."

Something obviously caught Mike's attention. "Dustin shut up."

Louise followed Mike's line of focus.

"I'm just saying, does that sound smart to you." Dustin pushes on.

There was slight rustling.

"Shut up, shut up." Mike waved. "Do you guys hear that?" There was more rustling and suddenly an indistinct screeching to the right of them.

"I swear to god if I die." Louise whispered to herself. She pointed the flashlight to where the sound came from.

There was a closer rustling. The four turned around in gasps. To be met with a young girl in a yellow t-shirt and no hair.

"Oh my god..." Louise whispered.

2. [Bye!]

Summary for the Chapter:

Strange things are beginning to happen ever since they discovered Eleven.

Notes for the Chapter:

Hi, this story is crossed posted to my Wattpad. If you want to read the work I have to far. My Wattpad is Koffe3ee and I have a total of 9 parts posted. But if you cant stand the ads (like me.) I'm going to be posting the full story here. If you have any questions, please don't be afraid to comment or go to my tumblr, which is the same as my Ao3.

They stood facing the couch . The young girl sat on the couch breathing heavily. The thunder echoed through the house as lightning flashed through the windows.

"Is there a number we can call?" Mike asked, looking at Louise.

"I don't know, social services?" Louise answered.

"Where's your hair? Do you have cancer!?"

"Dustin!" Louise yelled.

"What?"

"You just don't ask people if they have cancer because they don't have hair." The short girl sighed.

"Did you run away?" Lucas asked.

"Are you in some kind of trouble?" Mike inquires.

Lucas took a step forward. " Is that blood?" He reaches forward to investigate.

Louise slapped his hand away. "Stop it! You're freaking her out!"

"She's freaking me out!"

"I bet she's deaf." Dustin chimed in. He steps forwards and claps in her face. The young girl flinches away. She gives him a look. "Not deaf." He concludes.

Louise massages her temples out of stress.

"Alright, that's enough, all right?" Mike scolded. "She's just scared and cold."

Louise turned to Mike. "Mike, do you have something dry she can wear?"

"Oh yeah, there might be something in the laundry basket." He runs to the back where the washing machines are and picks out some warm clean clothes for the young girl to wear. Thundered rumble once again and the She flinches in fear.

"Here's some clean clothes." She held up the blue and gray clothes up to her face and rubs her cheek on it like a cat. The four looked at each other with looks on their faces. She places clothes beside her and takes off her jacket. Louise didn't think that the little girl was about to strip her clothes off in front of three prepubescent boys in a basement. But boy was she wrong.

"No, no, no, no!" The three boys turned away to cover their eyes. "Oh my god, oh, my god!" Dustin cried out.

Louise stopped the little girl from taking her shirt off.

"Mike, where's a private place she can get dressed?"

Mike, still having his eyes covered, points to a door. "Over there is the bathroom." The young girl grabs the clothes and meekly walks over there. She looks around in the small room. Mike follows her to close the door behind her. She holds the door open.

"Mike, I don't think she likes the door closed all the way."

"You don't want it closed?"

"No."

"So you can speak."

Louise turns to Dustin, who was still facing away. Louis rolled her eyes. "Get over it."

"She just-" Dustin made the 'taking shirt off motion'

Mike returned back to where the rest of the trio was.

"This is mental."

Mike shrugged. "At least she can talk."

"She said 'no' and 'yes'." Luke placed his hands on his hips. "Your three year-old sister says more."

"She tried to get naked."

"There's something seriously wrong with her. Like, wrong in the head." Luke pointed to his head.

"She just went like-" Dustin once again made the 'taking shirt off motion.'

"Dustin chill." Louise piped up. She stood around watching the three discuss what just happened.

"I bet she escaped from pennhurst."

Louise raised her eyebrows "From where?"

"The nuthouse in Kerley County." Lucas explained.

Dustin smiled. "You got a family in there?"

"-Bite me." He rolled his eyes. "But seriously though, think about it, that would explain her shaved hair and why she's so crazy." Lucas explained.

"Why did she go like.." Dustin ran through the motion once again.

"She's an escapee." Sinclair reasoned. "She's probably psycho."

"Like Michael Meyers."

"Exactly!" Lucas exclaimed. Mike was obviously not having it. "-we should've never brought her here."

"So you just wanted to leave her out in the storm." Mike shot back.

"I'm with Mike on this." Louise looked back at the bathroom door. "I don't think she's an escapee, she probably was isolated from people." Louise reasoned. "that explain why so so 'weird' and only knows words like 'yes' and 'no'"

"We went out to find Will. Not another problem."

Dustin took a step forward. " I think we should tell your mom."

Lucas shook his head in agreement. " I second that."

"Who's crazy now?" Mike said. He looked up at Louise.

"How is that crazy?"

"Cause you guys weren't supposed to be out tonight." The short girl chimed in.

Sinclair shrugged "So?"

"-So if Mike tells his mom, and his mom will tell your mom and Dusty's mom and Dusty's mom will tell my mom."

"Hey don't call me Dusty!"

"Our houses become Alcatraz.."

"Oh man.."

" we'll all get in trouble." Louise reasoned.

"Exactly." Mike agreed. "We'll never find Will." Dustin looked at

Louise with his eyes wide. "Alright, here's the plan. She sleeps here tonight." Mike began.

"-Your letting a girl-"

"Just listen!" Mike interrupts. "In the morning, she sneaked around my house, went to the front door and rang my doorbell. My mom will answer and know exactly what to do. She'll send her back to Pennhurst or wherever she comes from. We'll be totally in the clear." The trio listened intensely. "Tomorrow night, we go back out. And this time, we find Will."

"Ok.." Louis nodded. "I hope this doesn't backfire."

Dustin nodded in agreement. The trio began grabbing their stuff to leave Mike's house. As they climbed the stairs. Lucas stopped, making Dustin bump into Lucas and Louise bumping into Dustin. Lucas looked down into the basement.

"Do you really think she's psycho?" Dustin asked. Louise couldn't help but roll her eyes. "not all psycho people are Michael Meyer crazy."

"Regardless, I wouldn't want her in my house." Lucas rushed up the stairs. Both Dustin and Louise looked down at Mike tending to the young, bald girl. Dustin sighs "mental."

"Come on, we gotta get going." Louise pushes Dustin up the stairs and out the house. They both grabbed their bikes. The night sky was covered in clouds but it was no longer raining- for now.

"Louise?"

Louise turned back. "Steve?" Dustin looked at Louise.

"Why are you here?" Harrington asked.

"Picking up Dustin." Louise lies. "What are you doing here?"

"Studying with Nancy."

"Studying.." Louise nodded.

"Yeah. Studying."

"Studying human anatomy and physiology?" Louise kicked the kickstand.

"Yeah. What no! It was chemistry."

"Anyways we got to go." Dustin jumped on his bike. Not liking the awkward tension filling the air.

"Yeah Steve, we got to go" Louise hopped on her bike. She looked back, " Bye Steve."

"Bye Louise." Steve said. He watched the pair ride off the horizon line.

Louise slammed her locker shut.

"Oh shit!" She gasped. "Steve! Don't do that!" Steve let out a small awkward chuckle. He rubbed the back of his neck, and looked off to the side. Louise tightened her lips. She was obviously disappointed and hurt that Steve wanted to "study" and forgot about the plans he and Louise made earlier on.

"What do you want, Harrington?" Louise tightened her grip on her book. Her long black hair fell over her warm cardigan. The autumn morning light shone through the window reflecting off of Louise lipgloss. Steve couldn't help but stare. "Steve?" Louise waved her hand in his face.

"Oh yeah, I'm here to apologize." Steve said.

Louise raised one eyebrow. "Oh really?"

"Yeah, I'm sorry about lying. I knew you'd be upset if I told you I made plans with Nancy with no regards." He rubbed the back of his neck nervously.

"I wasn't upset at the fact that you wanted to spend time with your girlfriend." She pointed out. "I'm upset at the fact that you lied to

me."

"Yeah.." Steve trailed off.

Louise furrowed her brows. "Is that it?" She turned around.

Steve grabbed her arm and pulled her back. "Louise, I'm sorry, I'll make it up- we'll go see a movie and eat some popcorn and drink some soda. Just you and me. Like in middle school."

Louise slapped him away. "You know I'm a sucker for nostalgia- don't use it against me." She scrunched her nose. "Apologies accepted."

Steve smiled. "On another note-" Steve said mischievously "- my parents are away-" Steve looked over and saw Nancy. "There's Nancy. Come on." Steve grabbed Louise's hand and pulled up to Nancy and Barb.

Steve snatched the flashcards out of Barb's hand. "Hey!"

Louise pulled her hand away from Steve's grip and wiped her sweaty hand on her jeans. Tommy and Carol came up from behind. With Carol smacking her gum in her mouth and Tommy flicking Barb's ear. Louise was once again annoyed.

Steve shuffles through Nancy's flash cards. "Uhhh~ I think you studied enough Nance."

"Steve—"

"I'm telling you, you know, you got this." Steve looked down at Nancy. Nancy, however, was not having it. " Now onto more important matters. My dad has left town for a conference and my mom's gone with him-" he lets out a breathy chuckle "- cause, you know, she doesn't trust him."

Tommy smiled. "Good call."

Steve looked at both Nancy and Louise. " So are you in?"

"In for what?" Nancy asked.

"No parents, big house." Carol grinned.

"A party is what Steve is essentially asking." Louise rolled her eyes.

Nancy's face scrunched up. "A party?"

"Ding, ding, ding!" Carol gave a look at Tommy. Tommy let out a small condescending chuckle.

"It's Tuesday." Nancy stated.

Steve turned Louise. "That's why you can't back out, You told me that Dennis's mom is off every Tuesday. "

"It's Dustin."

In the background you can hear Tommy mocking Nancy and laughing.

"Come on." Steve attempts to comfort Nancy. "It'll be low key. It'll be us." He wraps his arm around Louise. "What do you say? Are you in or out?"

Louise sighed. "I can't really back out-"

"Oh god." Carol interrupted. She points her manicured fingers towards Jonathan who just walked in. "Look." Everybody turns to the direction Carol is facing.

"Oh, god, that's depressing." Steve said. Louise hits Steve's chest.

"She would say something Nancy asked out loud

"I don't think he speaks." Carol hissed.

"How much you wanna bet he killed him?"

"Shut up."

Louise threw Steve's arm off her and walked up to Jonathan.

"Hey Jonathan." Louise called.

"Hey Louise."

The five of them watched the girl talk to Jonathan who was putting up missing posters of his younger brother.

"If you need anything, anything at all. I'm here." Louise brushed her hair behind her ear. "Will is a smart kid. He'll make it back home."

"I hope so. Thank you." Jonathan let out a small smile.

"Hey." Nancy came up.

"Hey." Jonathan responded. Louise walked back to the group.

"Look, loser Louise is back." Carol chided.

"Look chlamydia Carol is talking." Louise shot back.

Steve let out a chuckle. "So are you in."

"Well someone got to keep you in check king Steve."

"-chlamydia?" Carol thought out loud.

Louise opened the door. "Steve!?"

"Louise. You're here early." Steve poked his head out from the kitchen.

"You know what they say." Louise dropped her bag on the kitchen counter. "Show up early, leave early."

"As usual." Steve chuckled. He placed the beers into the cooler. "You want one?" Steve held a can.

"Sure." Louise took the beer into her hand.

Steve closed the cooler.

"You've been an asshole Steve." Louise started off. "A major one."

Steve stopped what he was doing. "What do you mean?"

"Ever since you started hanging out with the 'cool kids'" Louise fidgeted. Debating whether she could continue confronting her friend.

"You have treated everybody else who isn't in the category of 'cool' like shit."

Steve raised his eyebrows. "Your cool Louise."

"No I'm not. Carol calls me 'loser Louise '. I get poked at, talked down to, I get racial slurs thrown at me because I'm not your average white American." Louise felt her ears become red.

"I hangout with you." Steve tried to reason.

"No you tolerate me." Louise frowned. "You have been canceling on me to hangout with Carol, Tommy, or Heather or whatever. If not, you're making out with Wheeler in the bathroom! The last time we've ever had a decent conversation is when I'm walking with you to the bathroom! So you can make out with Nancy."

Steve took a step. His chest tightened. "Well if you are so angry with me! Maybe you should stop hanging out with me!" Steve shot back.

"I tried Steve! But no! You keep bouncing up to me like a lost fucking puppy!" Louise shouted. "You won't let me go! You keep stringing me along. And I'm sick of it." Tears welled up in her eyes.

"Well, I hope I let you go! Here let me show you the door." Steve grabs Louise's bag and tosses it to her. And stomped through the foyer and opened the front door. " Here you go!" Steve gestured at the open door. "You can leave! I'm letting you go!"

"This is bullshit!" Louise stomped through the threshold.

"Bye!" Steve called out.

"Bye!" Louise shot back. Steve shut the door. Louise rubbed the tears of her cheeks and walked home. The sun was gone and stars weren't as bright and the moon was no more to be seen. She walked along the wooded area. Gently wiping away her tears of frustration and sorrow. Was this the end of a wonderful friendship?

The was familiar sound of screeching echoing deep in the woods. Louise stopped and turned her head towards the direction. There in the darkness was a sort of human-like figure but not. She stepped closer to investigate . There was another shrieking, but it was closer and louder. She jumped back. "Hello?" She called out. She felt the hair in her arms stand up. More rustling ensued. " Is anyone there?" She took a step forward. Louise now stood at the threshold which separated the sidewalk and the wooded area. She looked around. Another round of screeching and the figure darted past. She fell back into her bottom. The figure stopped. The moon came out illuminating the person. It gurgled and let out guttural noise. "Oh fuck this shit!" And with Louise ran for her life

3. [Hey where's Louise?]

Summary for the Chapter:

!!Warning !! This chapter contains racism and usage of racial slurs. In small town America especially in the 20th century due to the tensions high in East Asian countries in regards to wars and political ideology- placed stigmas against the Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and overall marginalized East Asia into one box. In small town America like Hawkins with a few black family's and majority is white in a state known for being more homogenous than New York, California and even Texas. There is bound to be racism in areas like Hawkins. There is going to be a warning before the part containing racism and when it ends.!!

Louise entered the halls of Hawkins high. Exhausted to say the least. She placed her bag into her locker and sorted through her piles of books.

"Now where is that assignment?" She asked herself. She looked to the interior door of her locker. Pictures of her friends and family hung up on their- all smiling faces. One picture in particular caught her attention. It was a Polaroid picture of Steve and her, sitting on lawn chairs, cheasin' away with drinks in their hands. It was one of her favorite pictures. They genuinely looked happy. Louise smiled sadly. She turned her attention back to searching for that specific paper.

"I feel like they are all staring at me."

Louise froze. She quickly shifted through the piles of paper. Come on, come on, come on! There it was in bold. "The Pueblo's revolt" at the very bottom of the pile. It was like the universe was out to get her. She quickly grabbed the paper and stashed it into a binder. She slammed the locker shut and turned around.

"Steve."

"Hey Louise."

"What do you want?" Louise automatically put guard up. She was emotionally drained and planned on exercising her right to avoid it. But that was just not happening today.

"I just want to apologize for last night..." he chuckled nervously.

"You do..." the short girl trailed off.

"Yeah. I'm sorry for being such an asshole. Sit with us at lunch."

Louise took a deep breath in. "You know that movie I forced you to watch?"

"Yeah, The Outsiders."

"I'm PonyBoy. And you 'cool' friends are the soc."

And with that Louise rushed off to US history.

The school bell rang signifying that it was lunch. Nancy walked from the lunch line holding a tray. She looked around worried. She sat down, with eyes down.

"I don't care what it is, it's disgusting!" Steve said with his mouth full. Steve waved his fork. "Get it off the table. We're eating here."

Nancy looked up. "Hey, Tommy. When you left, did you see Barb?"

"What?" Tommy responded with his mouth full.

"-Barbara. She's not here today." Nancy elaborated.

Tommy's freckled face scrunched up in confusion. "I seriously have no idea who you're talking about." Carol giggled.

Steve looked at Nancy. "Come on, don't be an ass, man. Did you see her leave last night or not?" Steve pushed around his lunch food.

Tommy looked at Steve then faced Nancy. "No, she was gone when we left."

Carol put a fork full of mash potatoes in her mouth. "Probably couldn't stand listening to all that moaning." Tommy chuckles as Carol starts moaning and loudly yells "Oh, Steve! Oh, Steve! Oh, Steve!" As Tommy starts rocking the table and grunting loudly. Nancy sat back and Steve looked over at his girlfriend. Tommy started laughing along with Carol.

"Listen... I'm sure she's fine. She probably just, she probably just, like, skipping or something." Steve nodded and patted Nancy's leg.

Nancy looked towards the entrance of the cafeteria. The large blue double doors were open. She spots Jonathan and Louise walking.

!!Warning!!

"Yeah." Nancy looked down at the table. "Where's Louise?" She asked.

Steve's smile slowly disappears.

"Oh loser Louise skipping." Carol bumped Tommy. "That's a first."

Tommy laughed. He points the fork towards Nancy. "You know she's adopted. We all know she's an accident due to the one child policy in China."

"She's a whoopsie." Carol laughed with her mouth full. "Oh I wonder if she knows she's adopted. I mean it's obvious, her parents have blonde hair and blue eyes. With that chink face of hers, it so~ obvious." Tommy laughed and stretched his eyes back -and began mocking Louise.

!!End of warning !!

Steve stood at the pay phone ringing Louise. "Please pick up, please pick up, please pick up." He prayed.

"The person you are currently contacting is unavailable, please leave

a message after the beep."

Beep.

"It's, uh, Steve. Steve Harrington. I'm calling to see if you are ok? You weren't in the study hall." Steve ran his hand through his hair. "I'm really sorry." He sighed. His chest tightened at the fact that the one consistent person he liked, loved (?) was driven out of his life. "Louise-" he began. The phone clicked. Steve slammed the phone into the hook.

"So I heard you were at Harrington's pool party." Louise started off.

Jonathan chuckled awkwardly. "Wow, word sure does travel fast."

"It does."

"I thought you were going to be there too."

"Steve and I got into an argument..." Louise crossed her arms. "I called him out for being an asshole." Louise chuckled. "And he kicked me out before the party started..." Louise trailed off. Remembering that strange person she saw nestled in the bushes. Louise shivered.

"Hey you ok?" Jonathan asked.

"Yeah, just the heebie-jeebies." Louise chuckled.

They arrived at the Funeral parlor. The teenagers stood in front of the parlor for a bit. Baffled That's they were going to pick out a casket for a child. More specifically Jonathan Byers baby brother. It was honestly disorientating. Louise was an only child, however that didn't stop her from looking at Dustin like he's her younger brother.

"Well, here we are..." Louise trailed off. "Are you ok?"

"It's best we get this over with." Jonathan pushed the funeral parlor door open and they went.

4. [I could really go for a shower.]

Summary for the Chapter:

Funerals to adventure in the woods while being a potential third wheel? What's the worst thing that could happen?

"It's made of soft wood with a crepe interior." The funeral director stopped himself. "Uh now, I. I don't know what your budget is, but over here we have copper and bronze." He directed the two teens over to the section he was talking about.

"Jonathan." Louise tapped him. "Nancy's here."

"Uh- can you give us a second?" Jonathan stammers

"Of course." Funeral director gives an understanding nod.

"Your mom, um... she said you'd be here." Nancy started off. "-with Louise." Nancy deeply inhales. Something was truly bothering her. "I just-"

"How about we sit down." Louise suggested.

The trio now sat in the hallway of the funeral home. Jonathan held a picture. "It look like it could be some kind of perspective distortion, but I wasn't using a wide angle." He pauses, thinking hard. "I don't know."

"Louise?" Nancy held out the picture. Hoping for another opinion.

Louise holds the paper in her small hands. She looks closely at the image. "Huh?"

"What is it?" Nancy leaned closer.

"It's weird..." Louise trails off. Her eyebrows furrow. "Was someone else at Steve's house?"

"No." Nancy turns to Jonathan. "Did you see anyone out there?"

"No." Jonathan begins tapping his feet nervously. "And She was there one second and then, um..." he shakes his head "-gone." He shrugged his shoulders "I figured she bolted. Like Louise."

Nancy leaned over to look at Louise. "Did you see something... when you left Steve's?"

Louise remained quiet. Debating on telling them about what she heard. " I think I did? I-I don't know." She shakes her head. " I was upset at Steve, and left his house. It was dark. And I thought I heard a noise. It was coming from the woods..." there was a slight pause. The pair listened intently. " so I went to investigate. And I saw this person thing?"

"The cops think she ran away." Nancy started off. "But they don't know Barb. I went back to Steve's and saw something, like the person thing you saw."

"Did it have a face?" Jonathan asked.

"No." Louise concludes. Nancy shook her head.

Nancy's face dropped. "How'd you know that?"

"My mom said she saw a faceless man come out the walls." Jonathan chuckled. "I thought she was crazy."

There was silence. Louise was still holding the picture. She looked closer at the picture holding it up against the sun. "Maybe we can take this picture to the red room and study the distortion?"

The room was illuminated red. The trio stood over the picture as Jonathan worked his magic.

" You first Brighten. Then enlarge..." Louise mumbled to herself. Repeating what Jonathan has taught her.

"Hmm." Nancy leaned back. "Did your mom say anything else? Like um where it might've gone, or..."

Jonathan pushes the heavy machine away. " Nope that it just came out of the wall." The machine dinged.

Louise stood there in silence working. Listening to Nancy strike up the conversation with Jonathan.

"That's it!" Nancy exclaimed.

Louise looked up. "That's the monster I saw." She breathed. She couldn't believe it...

"My mom... I thought she was crazy. Cause she said that's not Will's body. That he's alive."

"And if he's alive.." Nancy started

"Then Barbra." Jonathan finishes, looking into Byer's eyes.

Louise furrowed eyebrows. Completely oblivious to the romance that was building. "Wait, what about Will's body?"

Louise brushed her bangs apart. "How do I look?" She turned to Dustin.

"Like you're about to go to a funeral." Dustin replies. "Can you help me?" Tugging at his collar. "There's no hole for this button." He pouted.

"That's because you are one off on your buttoning skills, my man." Louise smoothed her skirt. She pumped her lip gloss bottle before swiping the wand against her lips.

"Do you always have to wear lip gloss?" Dustin questioned.

"Why, you got something against lipgloss."

"No... it's just it's really girly." Dustin stated.

"Well I think it makes me look cute." Louise puckered her lips. "Come

here, I want to see how this lip gloss looks on you."

Louise reaches out for Dustin. Dustin ducks away making a face. "Ew!!" He runs behind the recliner. "Get your disgusting lipgloss away from me." His voice cracks.

"It's not disgusting! It's cherry flavored." Louise grinned.

"Oh! My bad- since it's cherry flavored, it's all good." Dustin retorts sarcastically.

Louise laughed. "Ok, ok, we have to go to Will's funeral." She looked up at the clock. " or we're going to be late."

They stood over the casket. The sky was oddly clear for a day of "mourning". The white and yellow roses rested on top of the casket. And Joyce Byers crosses her arms over her body. As everybody mingled and gave each other hugs and condolences as the procession ended. Over past the grave site and the gothic styled fences sat, three teenagers- Jonathan Byers, Nancy Wheeler, and Louise Hemingway looking at a map in their mourning clothes.

Jonathan held a paper. "See that's where Will's bike was found, Steve's house and that's my house."

"-it's all so close." Louise piped up.

Jonathan nodded. "Exactly. I mean it's all within a mile or something." He looks at the two girls. "Whatever this thing is, it's... it's not traveling far."

Nancy looks into Jonathan's eyes. "You want to go out there."

"We might not find anything."

"I saw something. And Nancy found something- without even knowing she was going to encounter it." Louise stated. "It's worth trying."

Nancy looked at the paper in Jonathan's hand. "If we do see it.." there was a pause. "Then what?"

Jonathan sighed. "We kill it."

"I-" Louise shrugged.

Bang

Bang

"Jonathan, where'd you get that gun?" Louise walked into the clearing.

"I got it from Lonnie." He aimed the gun at the Can once more.

Bang

Bang

Bang

Jonathan sighed. A voice came from behind. "You know you are supposed to hit the cans. The two teens turned their heads.

"No, actually, you see the spaces in between the cans?" Nancy and Louise turned to where Jonathan was gesturing. "I'm aiming for those."

"Ah." Nancy places her bag on the floor.

"Have you ever shot a gun before?"

Nancy scoffed. "Have you met my parents?"

Louise sat on the ground next to Nancy's duffel bag.

"You can look through it."

Louise nodded. She unzipped the duffel bag and was met with a bat, some snacks, flashlights and extra batteries.

"There's only a gun and a bat." Louise chimed.

"Oh I couldn't find anything else." Nancy said.

"So I'm defenseless with a camera and a flashlight?"

"No! We'll protect you." Nancy nodded.

"All right..." Louise said. Ignoring the bad feeling blossoming in her chest.

"Let's go." Jonathan handed the gun to Nancy and picked up the bat.

And the three teenagers set off on their trek to find and kill the monster that has been terrorizing the small town of Hawkins.

The forest was only illuminated by the three flashlights that sway back and forth. Jonathan rested the bat on his shoulders, while Nancy held the gun. Meanwhile Louise lagged behind avoiding the awkwardness that has ensued between the two. She shivered and quickly adjusted her scarf around her neck and adjusted the camera straps around her neck.

There was suddenly a slight whimper.

"Hey do you hear that?" Louise asked out loud. She fastened her hand around the cool flashlight.

"Yeah." Nancy looked around. Nancy stopped. Louise skipped up to catch up to Nancy.

Jonathan groaned. He turned around. "What? Are you tired?"

"Shut up."

Louise rolled her eyes. "Oh here we go again."

"I heard something."

There was another indistinct whimper. Jonathan looked around. Hearing the noise.

The three decided to follow the noise. The closer they got. The louder the whimpers became.

"Oh my god." Louise shone her flashlight on the injured deer. "It's a deer." She felt her heart tighten as she heard it cry in pain. She got on her knees.

Jonathan sighed.

Nancy's face dropped in sadness as she sat down by Louise. "It's been hit by a car."

Shook her head. "We can't just leave it."

Nancy nodded in agreement.

Jonathan pointed to the gun.

"... we have to put it out of its misery..." Louise swallowed.

Nancy looked at the gun. Her finger hangs limply around the metallic trigger.

The deer continued to whimper.

"I'll do it."

"I thought you said-"

"I'm not nine anymore."

Louise got up. "I can't watch this."

Nancy handed the gun and the two got up. Nancy threw her arm over Louise. It was hard.

There was a collective sigh as Jonathan cocks the gun and aimed it at the injured deer. Nancy turned her head away. Whilst Louise watched.

The deer laid there. And Jonathan stood there, mentally preparing himself to take a life.

Then suddenly, the deer disappeared.

"Holy shit!"

"What was that?" Nancy shone the flashlight in the direction of where the deer was.

Louise let go of Nancy. She shone her flashlight on the trail of blood and followed it. The two followed in suit. Nancy now held the bat while Jonathan held the gun aiming it.

"Where'd it go?" Louise asked out loud. "The trail stops here." Louise looked around. "It's like it disappeared into another dimension."

"I don't know." Jonathan's shoulder was hunched over and on guard.

Nancy turned her head around.

Jonathan turned to Nancy. "Do you see any more blood?"

"No."

"Nancy What are you looking at?" Louise stepped forward. Nancy shone the light into the tree.

"Ew. What is that?" The goo dropped from within.

Nancy peered deeper into the tree. While Louise loaded the camera.
"This is so weird."

Click.

"There's blood in there..." Nancy reaches out to touch it.

"Where's Jonathan?" Nancy asked

"Oh he walked in the opposite direction." Louise turned her back on Nancy.

Nancy looked around. "Do you hear that?"

"Hear what?"

"That rumble..." Nancy now has a worried look on her face.

Nancy began taking her backpack off.

"Are you going to do what I think you're going to do?" Louise places her hand on her hip.

"I'll be back out." Nancy said. She grabbed the flashlight and began crawling into the tree.

"Nancy!"

"If I'm not out in 5 minutes. Get Jonathan."

"I-" Louise looked around. "Ok."

Louise stood around. Watching the tree, waiting for Nancy to come out. Louise tapped her foot, kicked the leaves, fiddled with her camera, and shone the flashlight around. She looked down at her watch.

"Ugh it's been five minutes." Louise exclaimed. "She should be out by now."

A scream echoed from within the tree.

"Nancy!?" Louise dropped to her knees. She shone the flashlight into the tree hoping she would see the blue eyed girl crawl out. "Nancy Wheeler!" She called out.

Another scream ensued.

"Gah." Louise tightened her grip on the flashlight and began crawling within the tree. With squelch and squish, Louise pushed on. There was an opening. Louise stood up. The forest was now blue. Like a filter has been placed over it. Louise wipes away the goo that has dropped on the girl. She shone the flashlight around. "Nancy?" She walked past trees and suddenly came to a clearing in the forest. The prairie that once held its red and yellow hue was now a dark blue. There was a rumble.

"Hello?" She called out. The wind began to pick. Louise's hair

whipped around.

"Nancy?" She called out over the roaring of the wind.

The clouds began to form a shape. And red lightning crashed in contrast to the blue sky.

Louise looked up. And for some reason, decided it was best to take a picture. She lifted her camera in the storm and placed her finger on the button.

Click.

There was a sharp ringing. "Ugh!" Louise dropped the camera. And quickly placed her hand over head. The ringing got louder and louder. "Stop!" She dropped to her knees and attempted to crawl away. The ringing got even louder. She felt dizzy as she felt herself sway. She reached the forest. She hoisted herself against the tree. Her camera is still hanging around neck. She looked back, ringing still echoing in her head. The cloud moved in an eerie way.

Louise turned and ran through the forest. She found the tree portal and crawled through it. She pushed through the slime and goo and twigs. Until she made it back to her world. The ringing finally stopped. She laid on the forest floor, her chest rose up and down to the rhythm of her heart.

"Louise!" And the voice called out. "Jonathan! I found Louise." Nancy ran and dropped to her knees. "Are you ok?" She asked.

"That was so weird..." Louise said. "I think I'm in shock." The black haired girl let out a cough. "I could really go for a shower."

Nancy let out a chuckle. " Me too."

Jonathan shone the light on Louise's face. "Hey, your nose is bleeding."

Louise sat up. And wiped her nose. She looked down at her sleeves. There was blood. "Should we call it a day?"

"Yeah."

5. [Failure of a Friend]

Summary for the Chapter:

Tension continually to increase within the settings and relationships.

Louise rolled over. The morning light streamed through the window. The light chatter coming from Nancy's bed reached her ears.

" - that's mean she's trapped..." Nancy stared at Jonathan "In that place." There was another pause. Louise laid there listening. "We have to find it again." Chills ran up Louise's spine. She felt her heart speed up and she visibly shook as the adrenaline pumped through her system. And the ringing in her ears became intense. She felt her chest tighten. It was getting harder to breathe. The weight of the cloud... that thing, sitting on her chest felt oxymoronic- her brain couldn't comprehend what was happening to her. The tendrils wrapped itself around her legs and her neck officially paralyzing her. Her skin littered with goosebumps and her breathing ragged along with the sharp ringing in her ear.

"Louise!" Nancy shook the hyperventilating girl. " are you ok?" Louise shook from her trance.

Louise looked up at Nancy. "I-"

"You were having a nightmare." Nancy stated.

"I was?" Louise felt tears roll down her cheeks. "I felt so real~" the girl rubbed her arm, trying to swipe the goosebumps away.

Nancy wrapped her arms around Louise and soothed her. Jonathan handed her a tissue.

"Heh thanks." Louise waved the tissue. "I feel like such a idiot." Her voice cracked.

Nancy and Jonathan walked out. "Monster hunting?" He

chuckled. Louise walked out of the gas station. " Monster hunting?"

"Louise, she straight told the dude we're going mister hunting." Jonathan popped the trunk.

"Nancy, your going to blow our cover as monster hunters." Louise smiled. She swung the snacks she purchased in the back seat.

Nancy shook her head. Looking at her two, very much, unlikely friends. "You know last week, I was shopping for a top for Steve." She shook her head. "It took all weekend for me and Barb to find the perfect top. It seemed like it was life and death."

Louise rolled her eyes. "Oh to be young and in love." She waved her hand about.

Both Jonathan and Nancy chuckled at her comment.

" but now your shopping for bear traps and going monster hunting with Louise Hemingway and Jonathan Byers." Jonathan finishes for Nancy.

"Yeah..." Nancy chuckled. "It's so weird." She places the traps and ammo in the trunk. Louise leaned back. The cool autumn air brushed against her cheeks. "What's the weird part? The monster hunting or shopping with Byers over here."

"Shopping with Byers." Nancy giggles as Jonathan looked at her with a jokingly shocked expression.

They were soon interrupted by the sound of honking. A red car zoomed down street as Reed called out " Can't wait to see your movie."

"What the hell was that?" Jonathan asked out loud. A furrowed expression etched itself on Nancy's face. " I don't know." She suddenly turned around in realization.

"What?"

Nancy began running down the street.

"Oh my god! We're running again." Louise ran after Jonathan as Nancy ran towards the movie theater.

"Nancy wait!"

Nancy let out a hurt noise as she stood in front of the movie theater. Jonathan and Louise, panting stood behind her. The short girl let out a gasp. On the movie theater's now showing sign, was spray painted "starring Nancy The Slut Wheeler."

"Oh my god, Nancy..." Louise wrapped her arm around Nancy to comfort her.

"Jesus..."

Tears welled up in Nancy's eyes. As she looked around. The sound spray can hissing filled their ears. Nancy separated herself from Louise comfort. Her lips formed a thin line. Nancy stomped towards the alleyway in anger.

"Wait!" Jonathan called out."

Tommy's laughter filled the tense atmosphere as the three got closer to the alleyway.

"You write like three year old." Carol's annoying voice filled the air.

Louise jaw tightened as her suspicions of who the perpetrators were.

Nancy stomped up the alleyway.

"Aw Hey, there princess." Carol said condescendingly

"Uh oh , she looks upset."

Louise ran up behind Nancy.

"Nancy..."

"Awe look, it the chink."

"Shut the fuck up, Carol."

Nancy took a step up to Steve. And slapped him. "What is wrong with you?!" Nancy exclaimed.

"What's wrong with me?" Steve retorted back. "What's wrong with you! I was worried about you. I can't believe that I was actually worried about you." He scoffed.

"What are you talking about?"

Louise crossed her arms. Her chest rose in anger.

Steve rolled his eyes.

Carol chimed in " I wouldn't lie if I were you. You don't want to be known as the lying slut now, do you?" She smacked her gum I. Her mouth.

"We'll speak of the devil." Tommy jumped down from the crate he was standing on.

Louise eyes met up with Steve. She shook her head disapprovingly.

"Did you come by last night ?"

"Ding! Ding! Ding! Does she get a prize." Nicole said with her eyes wide. Louise knew Nicole always had a crush on Steve. And only hung with Louise because she was friends with Steve. But now since Louise and Steve aren't friends, Nicole completely disappeared form Louise's friend list.

Nancy snapped. "Look, I don't know what you think you saw, but it wasn't like that. Louise was there."

Carol gasped dramatically. "It was a threesome!"

Louise face contorted in disgust. "No it wasn't!"

"What, you just let him into your room to... study?" Steve stated.

"Or for another pervy photo session." Tommy chimed in.

"Or a threesome~" Nicole looked at Louise. "Maybe that's why you

never had a boyfriend. Cause you liked girls." Louise shot her look of disgust. What a bitch.

"We were just—"

"You were just what?" Steve took a step towards Nancy. "Finish that sentence."

"Finish the sentence."

The atmosphere was intense. Nancy kept her mouth shut.

"Nancy, how about we just go." Louise suggested. She turned her back from Steve.

"Yeah, come on Nancy, let's go." Jonathan grabbed Nancy's arm and pulled her back.

"you know what, Byers, I've always took for a queer, a little screw-up like your father." Steve pushed Jonathan.

"Steve shut the fuck up."

"And Louise..." Steve laughed. "Would your birth parents be happy to see you hanging out with this loser?" Louise took a step back. "Shut up Steve-" her voice was small. Her birth parents and where she came from was a sensitive topic. Her eyes narrowed. "You know what Steve!" Louise stomped up to him and looked him in the eyes. Her nose scrunched up and ears turned a bright red. Her lipgloss reflected the the cool sky, and her blue jacket rustled as she lifted her arms up and shoved Steve Harrington. He stumbled back in surprise. "You've treated me like shit these past three years." She shoved him again. "I tell you these things." Another shove. "I tell you about my family." She shoves him again. "I drove you when your are too intoxicated." He stumbles back. "I listen to your daddy issues! Y-your love problems with Nancy!" Tears streamed down her face. "I make sure you don't screw up as boyfriend, as student, as son!? Because you've already screwed up at being a friend!" She shoves him again. Steve stumbles back, his styled hair falls forward.

"Louise, that's enough." Jonathan pulled Louise away. The trio started walking away. Louise wiped her tears away.

"Mr.screw up comes to the rescue again." Steve sneered. "He comes from a house of screw ups." He shoves Jonathan. " you know, I guess I shouldn't really be surprised."

Nancy turns around. "Steve, leave it!"

"You know what, I'm not even surprised what happened to your brother." Steve rambled on. Jonathan's face contorted in anger. "-but the Byers, their family, it's a disgrace to the entire—" but before Steve could finish his sentence. Jonathan Byer slammed his fist into Steve's jaw. Steve charged at Jonathan, grabbing his waist.

"Steve!" Nancy callee out.

Steve threw Jonathan onto the ground.

" I can't watch this." Louise covered her eyes.

Jonathan pushes Steve once again. Steve flew onto the ground.

"Kick his ass!"

Steve stumbles after Jonathan. Byers threw another punch but Harrington dodged it and retaliates with another punch.

Nancy's face cringed.

Jonathan continued to nail Steve in the face.

"Jonathan, stop!" Nancy exclaimed. "Stop! You're going to hurt him!" Nancy begged.

Louise stood there with her hands over her eyes. "I really don't like this!"

Steve fell to the ground. And the sound of sirens fill the air. Jonathan dropped to his knees and started punching Steve Harrington.

"Cops!" Tommy called out.

"Guys— Jonathan, Get off of him!" Nancy shouted. "Stop it!"

The cop car turned into the alleyway. The red and blue light flashed

against the brick wall.

Louise grabbed onto Nancy. "Oh my god~ the cops are here."

Tommy pushed Jonathan off of Steve. Nicole and carol fled the scene.

"All right kids. Break it up. " the scrawny cops called. He grabbed Jonathan. But Jonathan elbowed the cop in the nose.

"Jonathan!"

"Calm him down."

"Stop it Jonathan!"

Officer Powell grabbed Jonathan and flung him on to the car-successfully restraining him.

"Go,go, go, go, go!" Tommy dragged the dazed Steve from the scene. Nancy and Louise stood watching Jonathan get handcuffed. Nancy rubbed her face nervously.

"I'm so glad this over. Where is the diazepam when you need it?" Louise fanned herself.

Notes for the Chapter:

Im such a slut for tension...

6. [Walkie-Talkie]

Louise sat there drinking a cup of coffee while Nancy iced Jonathan's face. The beige walls reflected light and the occasional ruffles and shuffles of paper was interrupted with Mrs.Byers aka Joyce Byers barged in with Hopper following closely behind.

"Hey." She stepped into the room. "Jonathan? Jesus, what... what happened?" She asked. "Why is he wearing handcuffs?"

"Well, your boy assaulted a police officer. That's why." The scrawny officer stated.

"Hey is your nose ok?"

"Yeah it's fine, a little sore." He wiggles his nose.

"Take then off."

"I am afraid I cannot do that."

"Take them off!"

Hopper nodded in agreement. "You heard her. Take'em off."

officer Powell stood up from his desk. "Chief, I get everyone's emotional here, but there's something you need to see." And with that the three officers left the room.

There was a silence. Joyce doted over Jonathan, who was still in handcuffs. Nancy held the floral makeshift ice pack in her hand.

"What were you guys doing?" Joyce inquired.

The three remained silent. Louise diverted her attention from Joyce. "Louise?"

"Yes?"

"What were you guys doing?"

Louise froze. She hated confrontation. It always made her cry. Her eyes welled up with tears. "I- well... we-" Louise looked at Nancy. Nancy shook her head.

Hopper came in and slammed the box filled with hunting supplies. Louise sighed in relief- no more interrogation from Ms.Byers.

Joyce jumped up. "What is this?" The three teens looked down, not waiting to answer the question.

Hopper crosses his arms. "Why don't you ask your son?" We found it in his car."

"What?" Jonathan snapped. "Why are you going through my car?"

Hopper placed his hand on the desk and leaned forward. "Is that really the question you should be asking right now?" Jonathan stared up at him. " I wanna see you in my office."

"You won't believe me." Jonathan said. Hopper looked at the two girls. Louise quickly nodded her head and Nancy diverted her eyes.

"Why don't you give me a try?"

"Louise wake up." Nancy shook the sleeping girl.

"Huh?" Louise blinked. "What's going on?"

"Do you have any idea where the kids are?" Hopper asked.

"Kids?" She blinked.

"Mike, Lucas, Dustin and the little girl."

"Oh. Uhh..." Louise pondered. "I can get the walkie-talkie and contact Dustin."

"Oh please." Joyce nodded. Hopper stepped on the gas and the drove directly to Louise's house.

"What's going on?"

"The government, they are after Mike, Lucas, Dustin and the girl." Nancy explained.

"Oh..."

Nancy nodded. "They are interviewing my parents, so my house isn't really safe."

"Louise your up!" Hopper shouted.

Louise pushes open the car door and ran into her house and into her bedroom. She dropped to her knees and looked under the bed. There it was. The silver walkie-talkie gleamed against the beige carpet. Louise grabbed and scurried down the stairs.

"I got the walkie-talkie." She slammed the door shut.

Nancy grabbed the walkie talkie out of Louise hand. She clicked the button on the side. "Mike, are you there? Answer." Nancy looked around. The people in the car were staring at Nancy intensely.

Nancy swallowed. "Mike, we need you to answer." There was a pause. "This is an emergency, Mike." Nancy lip quivered. "Do you copy?" Joyce looked at Louise. "Mike, do you copy?" Louise shrugged. Why aren't they answering. "Mike, we need you to answer."

Hopper snatched the walkie-talkie out of Nancy's hand. "Listen, kid, this is the Chief. If you're there, pick up. We you're in trouble and we know about the girl."

Louise grabbed the walkie talkie out of Hopper's hand. "Dusty, I swear to god if you don't answer, I'll tell your mom, that you've been taking money out of the laundry jar to buy more comics. Do you copy? We can help you, and protect you from the bad guys." Louise sighed. "Do you copy."

There was silent.

Hopper sighed. "Does anybody have any other ideas?"

"Yeah, I copy." Dustin answered. "We're here."

Joyce, Jonathan, Nancy and Louise sat in the Byers house. Waiting for Hopper to return with the kids. The black lettering etched onto the floral wall paper. Louise shifted around nervously, Ms.Henderson would so kill her right now.

The headlight shone through the living room and the four of them rushed outside of the house.

"Mike. Oh, my god. Mike!" Nancy called out. She gripped him in to tight hug.

Louise ran up to Dustin with her arms wide open and wrapped him in her arms. "Dustin, if your mother heard what happened in the past few days, we would be toast." She let go of him and wiped her tears away.

"Are you crying?" Dustin asked.

Louise sniffled "No..."

After a good hour of Mike explaining the acrobat and the flea phenomenon. And discussing the gate, Will and Barbra.

"Actually El can do something."

"She can!?"

Next thing you know, there were standing and sitting around the dinner table. The black Walkie talkie laid in front of her emitting staticky noise. The young girl in a pink dress and blue jacket sat there with her eyes closed, concentrating. The lamp the hung above everybody casted shadows beneath their eyes. The uneasiness was etched into the wall of the house.

The lamp flickered, the static became faint and El opened her eyes. "I'm sorry.."

"What? W-w-whats wrong? What happened?" Ms.Byers gripped Jonathan's hand.

El face contorted into distressed. " I can't find them." Her voice to be on the brink of tears.

Everybody looked at each other.

The young girl rushed off to the bathroom.

"Is she ok?" Louis asked.

"Whenever she uses her powers, she gets weak." Mike explained.

Louise furrowed her eyebrows.

"The more energy she uses, the more tired gets." Dustin explained.

Lucas nodded and elaborated with " she flipped the van earlier."

"-it was awesome."

"But she's drained." Mike reiterated

"-like a bad battery."

"Well..." Ms.Byers sighed. "H-how do we make her better?"

"We don't. We just have to wait and try again." Mike explained bluntly.

Nancy leaned forward. "How long?"

Mike whisper, his voice barely escaping him. "I don't know."

"The bath." A small, raspy voice came out from behind

Louise jumped. "What?"

El took a deep breath. " I can find them." I'm There was a brief pause.
" In the bath."

7. [Want to Go Monster Hunting?]

The echo filled the auditorium. Lucas and Dustin fumbled with with kiddie pools. Hopper and Jonathan went to grab the salts. Nancy and Mike broke into the store house and retrieved the hose. And Louis sat with Ms.Byers and El. The matriarch of the house promised El to be there and protect her. Louise on the other hand had an uneasy feeling. For the whole day, she's felt lethargic and occasionally met with the feeling of falling accompanies with a ringing headache. She leaned against the classroom cabinet with her eyes closed and opened her eyes to the sound of El saying "yes"

"Are you guys ready?" Louise called out. Ms.Byers nodded and turned back to El. Her eyes wide and filled with motherly understanding. "Ready?"

There was a pause. El nodded, "ready."

The three arrived to the auditorium. El kicked off her shoes, rolled down her socks and placed the goggles over her head. Anxiety lingered over the seven people. The auditorium light flicked on and off and El floated in the pool. Louise's headache suddenly returned.

"Gone!" "Gone!"

"Gone!" "Gone!"

She heard El's voice echo in her head but it was different voice. It was more panicked and shrill than the voice that was informs of her who was more so whimpering, Gone, gone.

"It's ok." Joyce soothed.

Louise sat against the lockers. Her heart was pounding out of her chest and and her ears were ringing. The blue light seems to creep it's

way back into Louise's vision.

It's just a panic attack .

It's just a panic attack .

This is normal.

Louise took a deep breath in and out. Maybe she was in shock about Barb's death. But she didn't know Barb that well. The only reason why she and her interacted was because Louise was Steve Harrington's best friend and Steve dated Nancy Wheeler, who was best friends with Barb. It was such a complicated ordeal but the bonded over being the voice of reason, the devils advocate or the angel on the right shoulder. But that was it. Louise would've never reached to hang out with Barb, ask her to go to the movies, or have late night chit chats. That was how the cookie crumbled. Louise also felt guilty. Guilty that she managed to run away from the monster that hid in bushes by Harrington's house. But instead it took Barb, who probably never investigated the weird, guttural sound that emits from the monsters mouth or face? Barb seemed like the person to listen to her flight more than her investigate and deal with it if it attacks. Louise was more of a investigate then run, if it's something bad.

'Maybe it should've taken me instead of Barb. ' Louise let out a shaky breath and hid her face in her hands.

"Hey are you okay?" A voice called out

Louise looked up to see her friend. Dustin.

"Oh hey Dusty!" Louise wiping her fictional tears away and turning to look at him.

He frowned. He was obviously of buying it.

"Are you ok?" He reiterated.

Louise sighed. Dustin took that as a cue to sit down next to her.

"It's just been a crazy couple of days..." Louis trailed off. "I got into a

fight with Steve."

Dustin deadpanned. "That's it?"

"No."

"You know that Joyce and Hopper are going to the lab to enter through the gate..." Louis started off.

Dustin nodded.

"There's another 'portal'" Louise took a deep breath. "And I went inside... into the upside down."

"You what?" Dustin waved his hand around. "Did you see anything?"

"Dustin..." Louise's chest tightened. "I don't know what I saw..." Louise looked Dustin in the eyes. "But I saw something. Something bigger than those monster with the flower face."

"You mean demogorgon."

"Ok, demogorgon."

"I manage to take pictures." Louise nodded. "But something happened in there but I don't know what happened, it's like my brain doesn't want to remember but I keep having dreams and feelings and like.... something like... auditory hallucinations along with intense headaches."

Dustin pondered.

"I don't know if it's like I have some anxiety over this but it's been freaking me out. So much so that I'm scared to develop the pictures..."

"Why won't you develop the pictures?" Dustin asked.

"I- I don't know... I'm afraid it will confirm my dreams are real. That I actually went into the upside down. And I was touched by something??" Louise finished.

There was a moment of silence.

Dustin opened his mouth to say something and then closed it. Louise stared at him. Dustin was like the brother she never had. He was smart and lovable and just a wonderful person to be around. Louise was truly thankful for Dustin.

"Why don't I develop the films and see them for myself." Dustin said.

Louise blinked. "You don't even know how to develop films!" She waved arms in exasperation.

"Ok!" Dustin tried to soothe the girl. "How about you teach me and then I will develop the film and I'll see what the picture reveals."

Louis nodded. She looked at Dustin with a smile.

"What?" His blue shone with confusion.

"Your just too cute Dusty!" Louise voice raises a couple octaves and she wrapped her arm around him.

"G-Get off of me!" Dustin yelled.

"You can't escape my hugs Dusty!"

"Help!"

"Louise!" A voice called from around the corner. Louise released Dustin from her grasps. Dustin let out a sigh of relief.

"Yeah." Louise yelled back.

Jonathan and Nancy revealed themselves from the shadows. "You wanna go monster hunting?"

8. [Lights]

The trio screwed in the colorful light bulbs. Concentration etched into their face. They were determined in killing the demogorgon as what Dustin informed Louise on what it was called. Dustin laughed at the fact that she called the demogorgon, "a flower faced monster." Or some other variation of that.

Jonathan hammer in the silver nails as Nancy loaded her gun. Louise poured gasoline on the ground as apart of the booby trap. She let out a small cough due to the stench. Then Louise watched in the distance nervously as both Nancy and Jonathan set up a bear trap. She let a sigh of relief when they safely set it up.

Jonathan then continued to hammer silver nails into the bat. And Louise finished setting up the booby trap with a nice yellow yo-yo. And Nancy snapped her revolver closed.

After a couple hours of hard work. The trip sighed as they stared down the long and narrow hall was marked with booby traps.

"What's next?" Nancy asked out loud.

"We need to attract the demogorgon." Louise stated. "Hold on." Louis ran into the kitchen. Knife.

Knife.

She pulled open each drawers

Knife.

Ah bingo! Found the knife drawers! She walked back into the living room with the kitchen knife in her hand.

There was faint creaking.

Nancy eyes widen. " did you hear that?"

"It was just wind." Jonathan reassured Nancy.

Louise waved the knife around. " remember the demogorgon found the deer via scent."

The pair nodded.

"The deer was recently hit by a car and was bleeding out in the woods. Therefore we can hypothesize that this creature can smell blood, like sharks."

"But... we cant just waltz into the woods and find a deer." Nancy stated.

"Your right but we can, like any living thing with a circulatory system, can bleed. Hence the knife in my hand." Louise once again waved the knife further emphasizing her point.

The three of them gathered in a circle. "This is really occultist." Louise murmured. She drew the knife along her palm and then Jonathan's and finally Nancy. All of them stared at each other palms.

"We don't need to bleed out, Jonathan do you have gauze?"

"I have some! I brought them, just in case." Nancy ran to her bag.

"Just in case, what? That we slit our palms in hopes of attracting a monster." Jonathan said sarcastically.

"Here." Nancy tossed Jonathan and Louise their own roll.

There was another creak.

"Are you sure it's the wind?" Nancy said again.

"Don't worry, my mom said the light speak when they come."

"Speak?" Louis pipped up. She shoved the gauze back into Nancy's bag.

" blink."

"Is it too tight?" Nancy fingered ran over Jonathan's hand. Her hand lingered in his. Louise noticed it. There was something blooming in

between them. Who knew blood would be aphrodisiac. She shivered in disgust.

A rapid knocking echoed into the house.

The three jumped.

A familiar voice called out. "Jonathan?"

Steve?

"Are you there, man? It's... it's Steve!"

Nancy and Jonathan looked at each other. However Louise started at the door.

"Listen, I just want to talk!" Steve continued to knock on the door.

A frown painted on Nancy's face. She got up from the couch and marched to the front door and opened it.

"Hey. Nancy, what—"

Nancy interrupted with a firm tone of voice. "Steve, listen to me. You need to leave."

Louise couldn't help but peer out to see Steve's face. She cringed when she noticed the busted nose and lip along with his disheveled hair. She fiddled with the notches of her camera.

"- I'm not trying to start anything, okay?"

"I don't care about that." Nancy maintaining a strong facade. Nancy began to close the door before Steve began to beg.

"No,no, no. Listen, I messed up, okay? I messed... I messed up." There was a pause. "Okay. Really please. I just want to make thing right." He sighed. It was obvious he felt guilty for the way he acted . "I tried apologizing to Louise but she isn't answering, and I tried reaching you... I'm trying to make things right... okay. Please. Please..." Steve looked at Nancy's hand. "Hey what happens to your hand?" Is that blood?"

Nancy retracted her hand. "Nothing. I-it was an accident."

"Yeah, what going on?" Steve pushes again.

"Nothing."

"Wait a sec. did he do this to you?"

Louise looked at Jonathan.

"No." Nancy slammed the door in Jonathan's face.

"Let me in!" Steve pushed the door open.

"No. No! No, Steve!"

Both Jonathan and Louis stood in the living room. Both of them had their hands wrapped in gauze.

"Hey Steve-" Louise waved her gauze wrapped hand.

"What is... what the..."

Jonathan grabbed Steve's shoulders. "You need to get out of here."

"Whoa. What is all—"

"Listen to me. I'm not asking you, I'm telling you."

"What is that smell? Is that gasoline?"

Nancy pulled out her gun and clicked the safety off. And aimed it at Steve. "Steve, get out!"

Jonathan jumped out of the line of fire.

"W-What? What is going on."

"Nancy I think that's a bit much." Louis moved closer to Steve.

"You have five seconds to get out of here." Nancy demanded.

Louise looked at Steve. "I think you should leave..."

"Okay, is this a joke? Stop. Put the gun down." Steve raised his hand.

"I'm doing this for you."

The string light began to flicker.

"Guys..." Louise looked down the hallway. She looked at Jonathan to confirm that she wasn't just seeing things.

"Nancy..." Jonathan said slowly.

"Wait. Is this a... what is this?"

"Nancy." Louise said a little louder. The lights continued to blink.

"Three-"

"No, no, no! No, no!"

"Two-"

"Nancy! The lights!" Jonathan interrupted.

"It's here."

Louise ran to Steve's side. "Wait, What here?" He asked.

"Too much to explain." Louise reach down and grabbed the nail encrusted bat. And tossed it to Jonathan.

"Where is it." Nancy said. Her gun ready to fire.

"Here." Louise handed the bat to Steve.

"Where is what? Whoa! Easy with that." Steve wrapped his arms around Louise.

"I don't know."

"I don't see it."

The pair that held the weapons were ready to fight .

"Where is it?" Louis asked.

"Where is what!?" Steve yelled. He was obviously confused.

"The demogorgon." Louise said bluntly.

"The demo- What!?"

The light continued to flicker rapidly as an array of color flashed on and off.

"Hello? What the hell is going—"

A loud crash and a guttural sound emitted from the ceiling, Steve pulled Louis back. The lights flicker more intensely and in short intervals signaling the demogorgon's arrival. Nancy took a step back, her mouth wide open in fear. She lifted her gun and began firing. The saliva or goo dropped as the demogorgon made it was down the floor.

"Run! Run!" Louise grabbed Steve's hand and pulled him down the hallway. Jonathan and Nancy quickly followed behind

"Jump!" Louise shouted.

"Oh my god!"

"Oh my god!"

They ran into the Will Byers room and slammed the door shut.

Steve shook Louise's shoulder. "Jesus! Jesus! What the hell was that?!"

"Shut up!" The trio exclaimed.

The monster screeched beyond the door. The light continued to flicker as Nancy and Jonathan stood with a gun, a bat and a lighter."

All of them were panting due to the intense adrenaline rush pumping through the veins.

The was chittering, and weird trolling sounds.

"What's it doing?" Nancy looked at Louise.

"Hey, I'm not the demogorgon expert." Louise threw her hand up. She stared at the yellow yo-yo that rested in the green chair.

The sound of electricity jolting through the house accompanied the the four trapped in the room.

Nancy looked at Jonathan. " do you hear anything?"

Jonathan shook his head "no"

Steve began taking steps forward but Louise grabbed his arm. He looked at her with worry and bewilderment. She shook her head no.

Jonathan flipped the lighter closed. And opened the door. The hallway was dark, no sign of the demogorgon. He was the first to step out into the hallway. He held his bat and was ready to swing. Nancy followed behind, with her gun drawn. Her ponytail rested on her shoulder and her face filled with caution. Louis and Steve peered around the threshold. They were the only ones without a weapon, she held her camera, hoping to get at least on picture of this monster. She hasn't been able to due to being so preoccupied by freaked out Steve Harrington.

They ventured out from the dark hallway into the living room. The debris from the demogorgon sat on the floor and everything was disheveled . Like there wasn't a monster just chasing them a few minutes ago. An uneasy feeling rested on top of Louis chest, she looked at Steve Harrington and he looked down at her. He gave her a small smile of reassurance and squeezed her hand in comfort. Before having a mental breakdown himself.

"This is crazy." "This is crazy.

"This is crazy." "This is crazy."

Steve let go of Louise's hand and rushed for the phone and began dialing . Louise grabbed the phone out of his hand and slammed it back into the the receiver.

" what are you do— What are you doing? Are you insane!?" He

yelled.

Nancy marched up to Steve. "It's going to come back!" Her lower jaw jutted forward. " So you need to leave." Nancy gestures towards the door. "Right now."

And with that Steve Harrington ran out the Byers one story house and to his car before turning back to see the familiar flickering and electricity pulsating once again.

The trio stood side by side.

"Where is it?"

"Come on. Come on, you son of a bitch."

"You see it?"

"No.where—"

The light flickered at shorter intervals.

"Where are you? Come on!"

The light stoped flickering and the only sound filled were panting.

And then a low growl emerged from behind Jonathan.

"Jonathan!"

Jonathan fell to ground as the demogorgon wrapped it hand around its throat.

Louise raised the camera and snap.

"Jonathan!"

It opens its face over Jonathan.

"Go to hell , son of a bitch!" Nancy began firing her gun towards the demogorgon.

Louise ran to grab Jonathan's bat. As the demogorgon was now after

Nancy.

It towered over her.

Nancy waked backwards as she continued to fire rounds at the monster.

"Louise!" Steve yelled. He had his hand outstretched gesturing toward the bat in her hand. She tossed him the bat and he reeled it back and whacked the demogorgon.

"Steve!" Nancy shouted.

The monster roared and its focus was now on Steve.

"Steve! Be careful!"

He continued to hit the monster and the lights were frantically flickering. Louise ran to Jonathan's side and pulled him up. Jonathan handed

With one more hit, Steve hit the demogorgon into the trap.

It let a scream.

"He's in the trap!"

"He's stuck!"

"Louise now!" Louise flipped open the zippo lighter and then it at the monster. The flames burned bright and the demogorgon screeched . And Steve's hand found it way to Louise's and held it.

One month later

Louise knocked on the door, Steve opened the door, in his Christmas sweater. A nice smile beamed as he led Louise into the foyer outside of the cold snow.

"Merry Christmas! I came bearing gifts. " held a poorly wrapped present.

"I wonder what it is?" Steve smiled silly. Was he drunk?

"You will just have to wait until Christmas mornin." The short girl stuck her tongue out teasingly.

Steve laughed and looked up. "Look what we are under."

Louise looked up. "A mistletoe."

"You always do this!" She slapped Steve's arm.

He pouted and rubbed his arm. "and you never give me a kiss."

"Well too bad." Louise grumbled.

"you owe me about 7 mistletoe kisses." Steve boasted.

"Wow, you keep count. What a loser." Louise rolled her eyes.

"But you still owe me a kiss." Steve grabbed her hands.

"Really?"

"Really."

Louise sighed. She stood up on her tippy toes and leaned forward placing her lips onto his cheeks. Her cheeks however were flaming red. She riled back down into the soles of her feet. She could help but smile at Steve Harrington face. Her hand was still him his, and he leaned down, pulling her towards him, the smell of alcohol hit her. And he placed his lips on her hers. His eyes closed and her eyes wide open in shock. Steve pulled away, his eyes widening realizing what've he's done.

Louise stood there in shock.

"I-I, um, I have to leave." Louise stammered

"Y-yah."

"Have a wonderful Christmas, Steve." She smiled gently. And with that she left the Harrington residence.

Notes for the Chapter:

So this is the end of season 1. I'm currently writing season two at the moment. Hopefully, ill get season 2 and 3 up before season four drop this winter.